

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: REACTION TO GREEK-AMERICAN DEFENSE AGREEMENT

SUMMARY - GREEK CYPRIOT REACTION RANGED FROM CAUTIOUS TO CRITICAL WITH
H
OVERTONES OF FEAR THAT GOG, WHEN PRESSED, WILL PUT GREEK
INTERESTS AHEAD OF CYPRIOT. END SUMMARY

1. INITIALING OF GREEK-AMERICAN DEFENSE AGREEMENT WAS MAJOR
NEWS STORY HERE APRIL 16 AND 17. GOC -CONTROLLED CBC RADIO AND
TV CARRIED STORY PROMINENTLY WITHOUT COMMENTARY, GAVE MAJOR
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EMPHASIS TO STATEMENTS BY GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AND

GREEK OPPOSITION LEADERS.

2. APRIL 16 GOC SPOKESMAN WHEN QUESTIONED ON AGREEMENT REPLIED: "I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE." CHAIRMAN OF PAN-CYPRIOT REFUGEE COMMITTEE AND MEMBER OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PARASKEVAIDES - ACKNOWLEDGED "RESPONSIBILITY OF GREEK STATE TO PROVIDE FOR DEFENSE NEEDS OF COUNTRY" BUT COMPLAINED "I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT CAUSE OF CYPRIOT FREEDOM AND RIGHTS OF CYPRIOT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HASTILY SOLD FOR A MESS OF POTTAGE." SECRETARY GENERAL PAPAIOANNOU OF AKEL (COMMUNIST) SPEAKING IN LIMASSOL INDICATED AGREEMENT IS SERIOUS, NEW COMPLICATION OF CYPRIOT PROBLEM WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED ON BASIS OF UN RESOLUTIONS; UNDER UN AUSPICES. EDEK (LYSSARIDES' PARTY) RELEASED STATEMENT OPPOSING BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENTS AS INJURIOUS TO CYPRUS AND AS ATTEMPTS TO IMPRISON CYPRUS PROBLEM WITHIN AMERICAN FRAMEWORK.

3. NEWSPAPER STOIS APRIL 17 STRESSED CYPRUS ANGLE IN KISSINGER-BITSIOS TALKS, BRADEMAS' PREDICTION AGREEMENTS WILL NOT PASS CONGRESS, KARAMANLIS' VISIT TO U.S. JUNE 16. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS BEEN HESITANT AND UNCERTAIN. MOST PAPERS HAVE COMPLAINED AT MINIMAL MENTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM AND EXPRESSED FEARS THAT CYPRUS MAY BE SOLD OUT FOR GREEK AND NATO CONSIDERATIONS.

4. AGHON (PRO-CLERIDES) ACKNOWLEDGING KARAMANLIS' STATEMENT THAT AGREEMENT VINDICATED GREECE STILL FELT "OBLIGED TO RESERVE FOR THE TIME BEING OUR FINAL ENDORSEMENT" AND AWAIT "BENEFICIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF AGREEMENT ON BOTH AEGEAN AND CYPRUS ISSUES" WHERE "CREDIBILITY OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS MOST PUT TO TEST." HARAVGHI (COMMUNIST) WARNED: "RESTORATION OF DISTURBED BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE (PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF KARAMANLIS' GOVERNMENT), IN NO WAY ELIMINATES THE DANGER OF TURKISH EXPANSIONISM." PHILELEFHEROS, WHICH REFLECTS MAKARIOS' VIEWPOINT, CLAIMED TO BE "UNREADY TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON NEW AGREEMENT.... WE ARE IGNORANT OF MANY ELEMENTS AND FACTS. WHAT WE CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY IS THAT IT WILL NEED QUITE A BIT OF TIME AND A LOT OF EFFORT BEFORE SOME OF THE FINE WORDS WE ARE HEARING FROM THE AMERICANS ARE REALIZED.....WE DO NOT SHARE THE VIEW THAT

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THE EFFORTS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY IN ANKARA ARE INEFFECTUAL. WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON WANTS TO, IT CAN ACCOMPLISH THINGS." MAKHI (PRO-SAMPSON) CALLED ON KISSINGER TO PROVE HIS WORDS BY DEEDS.

5. APRIL 18 PHILELEFHEROS NOTED: "SOLUTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM CONCERNED ALL THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE.... AND ON THE BASIS OF

WHAT HAS BEEN LEARNED THE ASSUMPTION FOLLOWS THAT THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE KNOW VERY LITTLE OF WHAT WAS SAID NOT TO MENTION AGREED*) DURING RECENT HELLENIC-AMERICAN TALKS IN WASHINGTON." SIMERINI (PRO-CLERIDES) WELCOMED AGREEMENTS FOR "CREATING NEW CLIMATE IN HELLENIC-AMERICAN RELATIONS", CALLED ON GOG TO PRESS USG TO IMPLEMENT STATEMENTS.

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